

WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

A) Identification

Historic Name: **Camano City Schoolhouse**
Common Name: Camano City Schoolhouse/Community Hall
Address: 993 Orchid Road
City: Camano Island County: Island

B) Site Access (describe site access, restrictions, etc.)

Located on the west side of Camano Island, just above the intersection of Chapman Rd and West Camano Dr., where Chapman intersects with Orchid Rd. A very wide, entry/exit driveway separates the schoolhouse, on the south of drive, from fire station on the north of the driveway.

C) Property owner(s), Address and Zip

Name: Camano Schoolhouse Foundation
Address: PO Box 1113
City: Stanwood State: WA Zip: 98292

D) Legal boundary description and boundary justification

Tax No./Parcel: R23114-262-0170 Property ID 810561 - Owner ID 261064
Boundary Justification: Abbreviated Legal/Physical Address
Lot 2 SP 160-09.23114 AF#4292010

FORM PREPARED BY

Name: James G. Turk
Address: 1134 Finnegan Way #501
City / State / Zip: Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: 360-393-3285

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E) Category of Property (Choose One)

- ☒ building ☐ structure (irrigation system, bridge, etc.) ☐ district
☐ object (statue, grave marker, vessel, etc.) ☐ cemetery/burial site
☐ historic site (site of an important event) ☐ archaeological site
☐ traditional cultural property (spiritual or creation site, etc.)
☐ cultural landscape (habitation, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc.)

F) Area of Significance – Check as many as apply

- ☒ The property belongs to the early settlement, commercial development, or original native occupation of a community or region.
- ☐ The property is directly connected to a movement, organization, institution, religion, or club which served as a focal point for a community or group.
- ☒ The property is directly connected to specific activities or events which had a lasting impact on the community or region.
- ☐ The property is associated with legends, spiritual or religious practices, or life ways which are uniquely related to a piece of land or to a natural feature.
- ☐ The property displays strong patterns of land use or alterations of the environment which occurred during the historic period (cultivation, landscaping, industry, mining, irrigation, recreation).
- ☐ The property is directly associated with an individual who made an important contribution to a community or to a group of people.
- ☒ The property has strong artistic, architectural or engineering qualities, or displays unusual materials or craftwork belonging to a historic era.
- ☐ The property was designed or built by an influential architect, or reflects the work of an important artisan.
- ☐ Archaeological investigation of the property has or will increase our understanding of past cultures or life ways.

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G) Property Description

The Camano City School is a rectangular, one-room schoolhouse of wood-frame construction. It is located on a one half acre site, adjacent to the Orchid Road Fire Station. The building faces due west, towards the open waters of Saratoga Passage in the Puget Sound. The site slopes down from the north to the south allowing for a near daylight basement on the south façade. The building rests on a raised concrete foundation and has a front facing gable roof. Covered in asphalt shingles, the roof has deep cornice returns and simple freeze boards. Towards the rear, at the ridge, is a simple brick chimney. Historical images suggest that there was a small bell tower attached to the ridge at the front of the building, but this has been removed at an unknown date.

The building is clad with drop, shiplap siding and has no ornamentation other than the cornice returns. Attach to the main façade is a small raised porch with a small hip roof. Modern railings and steps descend towards the north façade. The rear, at the northeast corner is a small covered porch. Sheltered by a flat roof, this entry serves as a handicap entrance and is defined by a shallow ramp leading directly east from the rear façade.

Due to the sloping site and raise foundation, the basement level has several single pane fixed windows in the stem wall. The main floor boasts three large one-over-one wood windows on the north side, and five of the same size windows, on the south side of the room. The main façade has two windows of slightly smaller dimensions. All the windows have simple trim. The rear façade has one. Attached to the southwest corner of the building is an enclosed exterior staircase.

Inside, the principal, upper-level room was the original classroom. While the original chalkboards have been removed, below is the original wainscoting on three walls. The rest of the walls are lath and plaster. The ceiling is flat, defined by a grid of plywood panels. Overhead electric lights are a combination of flush mounted fluorescent lights, and white-globed "schoolhouse" style hanging fixtures.

The classroom floor is covered with well-worn and scarred linoleum (original wood floors are underneath). At the front of the room is an iron grate in the floor, which once directed heat from a lower-level wood stove into the classroom.

The classroom's east end has been converted to a small open galley style kitchen with shelves for dishware, a large stainless steel sink and a small storage/service island.

At the southeast corner is a water heater, along with a suspended room heater above.

The west wall contains three doors; access to the entry vestibule, and two bathrooms.

The entry hall has a small cupboard on the south wall. To the left of the entry, through the main classroom, is a girl's bathroom, which contains early bathroom fixtures and wooden toilet stall dividers. To the right, also through the main classroom, is a boy's bathroom. This space is smaller than the girls bathroom to accommodate a hallway to the exterior stairwell. The bathroom contains a single toilet and corner sink.

The compact hallway adjacent to the men's bathroom leads to a solid wooden staircase that provides access to a large basement room with rough concrete floor. The basement room dimensions are almost equal to those of the main classroom area. The basement is heated by electric baseboards. The room is well lighted with recessed, white globed, ceiling lights.

The rear of the basement area (to the east) is walled off, with access allowed via an exterior door. Inside this small area is storage room with wide shelf units and a sink. A square concrete platform in the center of the room appears to be the base for a wood stove that heated the classroom, via the grating directly above the platform.

H) Significance

The Camano City School is historically significant as an intact example of an early one-room school house, directly linked to the early educational system of Washington State. The school was built in 1905 to serve the thriving community of Camano City, which flourished in the early 1900's. Nearly gone today, the community was in the general vicinity of today's Camano Island Inn, on West Camano Drive. At one time, Camano City boasted of two hotels, a general store, post office, a weekly newspaper, several shingle mills, and daily ferry service: west to Whidbey, south to Seattle, and to many points north of Camano City. As with most schoolhouses of that era, after classes, the schoolhouse was a focal point of community social life.

In 1906 about 300 people lived in Camano City. Many men worked for the Esary family logging operation. During that time, a 4 mile stretch of railroad was built on the hill, along Chapman Creek, to transport cut logs to the lumber and shingle mill sites below, on the Saratoga Passage shoreline. In 1908 a long pier was built to serve the ferries and cargo vessels.

Maude Hayden, grandmother of Sam Reed, former Washington Secretary of State, was the Camano City Schoolhouse's first teacher. In 1905 she travelled by train from a farm in Iowa to Seattle, where she boarded a ferry to Camano Island. She confessed that it was a very scary trip, since she "had never seen so much water, in her life". Archives at Western Washington University note that her starting salary was \$40 per month. Accompanying photos show Ms. Hayden with a small group of dedicated students. With enrolment increasing, the weekly newspaper the "Camano Enterprise" reported that "Miss Clara Garrison has been elected assistant teacher in the Camano School". In the early 1920's a "Miss West" was identified as another Camano City

schoolteacher, who taught there for 2 years.

Astrid Tengelin, who was born on Camano Island, recalls that her first teacher, in 1921 was Ebba Netterlund. "By the time I got to the 4th grade, I was the only 4th grader. The teacher didn't want to bother with me; so she passed me on to the 5th grade". Astrid also remembered, "that boats, from Seattle and Everett docked at Camano City's wharf, and Indians often came in their canoes to dig clams nearby".

A 1911-12 promotional booklet called "Island County: A World Beater", carried enthusiastic comment about Camano City as: "The "metropolis" of Camano Island .. with a "free dock", no wharfage being charged .. with vast areas yet to be settled .. Good land can be had cheap .. Land sells for from \$20 to \$45, with \$75 per acre for waterfront .. Camano has daily boat service and can be reached by land or water from Everett and Seattle .. A general store is conducted by Mr. Frissell, who is also postmaster".

In 1924 the wharf was damaged beyond repair in a severe storm changing the nature of travel to and from the bustling community. However, by then better roads and increased auto ownership led to development of family camping/ "auto resorts" in Camano City and nearby west Camano Island, shoreline communities. The Cama Beach Resort, operated by the Stradley family, was one of the most popular.

In 1937 as the island economy and school populations declined, and the Camano Island students were transferred to Stanwood schools. Social events at the school became less frequent. However, the building was regularly used as a polling place, the site of court hearings, and as a meeting location for of the fire department auxiliary and other community groups.

Eventually in 1945 the schoolhouse was quit claimed, for \$200, to Camano City Fire District #1, from Twin City Joint Consolidated School District #401. It remained in their ownership for another 60+ years.

In 2006, when Jim Turk and wife Michie, became owners of a home at 777 Chapman Road, overlooking the underutilized and vacant schoolhouse. Seeing the possibility of returning the school to community use, Jim began to explore the possibility of acquiring the building from the Camano Fire District, whom by then were willing to sell, if there was assurance that it would be preserved and repaired for long-term, beneficial, general community use.

From 2007 to 2012, many strategies were discussed and reviewed for sale of the schoolhouse, and began the process to create a non-profit Camano Schoolhouse Foundation (CSF). Finally, in December 2012, CSF and Camano Island Fire and Rescue, agreed on a \$60,000 purchase price and CSF signed a 10 year contract, with final payment due in 2022.

Since then the CSF has established a 10 year plan for careful repair and rehabilitation of the schoolhouse in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation with the goal of adaptive rehabilitation/ reuse and rental of the building,

as a community hall and meeting place

Work done by Board Members and volunteers to date include:

1. Two, dangerous, diseased maple trees, which appear on the right of the schoolhouse in many photos, were removed..
2. Moss-covered roof was cleaned.
3. Leaking, south stairway roof was patched and repaired.
4. South stairway walls and ceiling were repainted.
5. All areas of the school building were cleaned and cleared of debris
6. Both bathroom sinks and kitchen sink were repaired.
7. Large basement room was repainted.
8. Front and rear gravel walkways were added and minor landscaping completed
9. Two large, portable, roadway signboards, with colorful schoolhouse "logo" were designed and built, inviting all to visit "The Historic 1905 Camano City Schoolhouse"

In addition, CSF has received generous offers to provide "in-kind" donations of materials, design and labor for:

- A. Permanent roadway directional signs.
- B. Interpretive signage for the schoolhouse itself.
- C. Gutter and fascia replacement.
- D. Full schoolhouse exterior repainting to be completed in 2014.

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I) Documentation

Xerox and attach any information or evidence that supports the property's significance.

Written Sources (books, articles, newspapers):

"Camano Enterprise", 1907-1909-Camano, WA--A few issues of this weekly newspaper published at Camano(City) on Saratoga Passage at SAHS.

Hawes, E.M. and Lou Clark. "Island County-A World Beater", 1911 or 1913, F.B. Hawes Co., Everett, WA: About communities in Island County. Online at University of Washington's Digital Collections.

Osmundson, John, "Camano Island - Succession of Occupation from Pre-Historic to Present Time", The Washington Archaeologist Vol. V. #4 April 1961, pp 2-18

White, Richard. "Land Use Environment & Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, WA/Rev. Ed. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1992. Very comprehensive account of land use, ecological and economic changes in Island County. Extensive bibliography.

Kimball, Art and John Dean. "Camano Island: Life and Times in Island Paradise" (Stanwood, WA): A. Kimball, 1994

Prasse, Karen. "Camano Island. Images of America". Charleston, S.C. Arcadia Publishing, 2006. Over 200 photographs of Camano Island and its logging, sawmill, agricultural and resort history. Available from SAHS and local book stores.

Oral History/Interviews:

None Available

J) Map and Photographs

Attach copies of historic maps or photos if available, and current photos (5 x 7 B & W). Include a current map – appropriate U.S.G.S. map and parcel map – with the location of the property and its boundaries clearly marked. (see instructions)



Camano Island

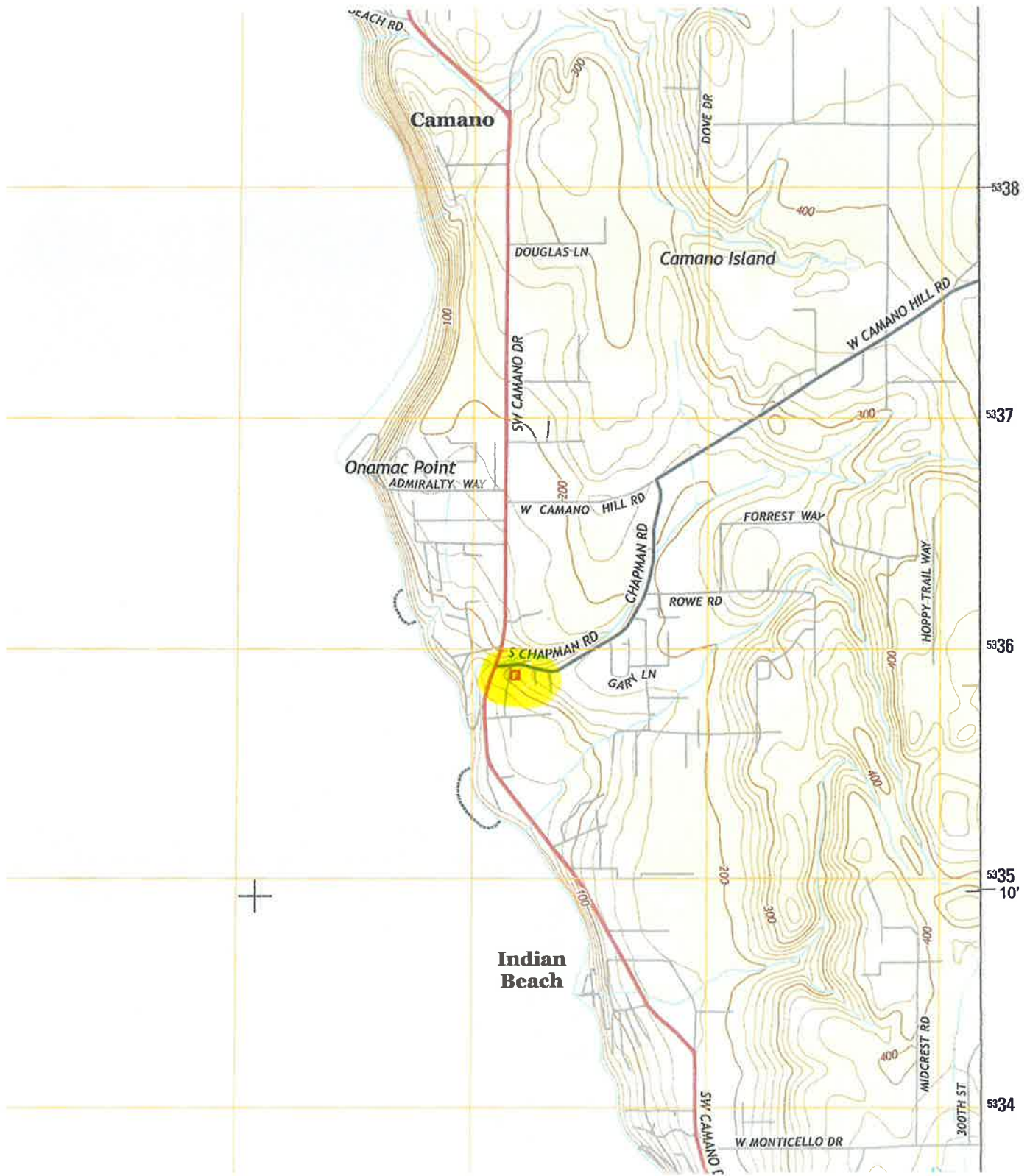


Camano City Schoolhouse

Camano Island, Washington



CAMANO CITY SCHOOLHOUSE



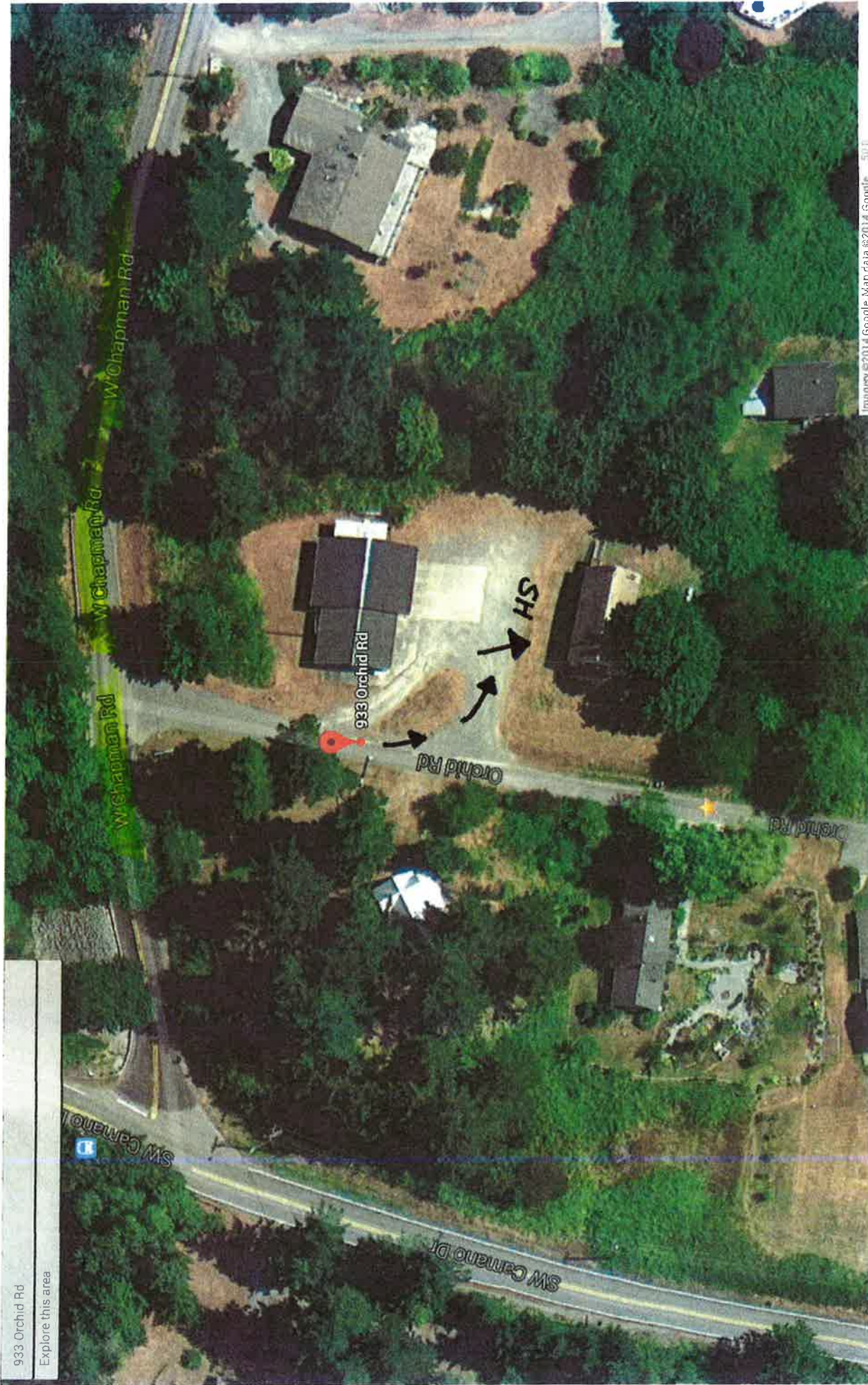
(A)
CAMANO CITY
SCHOOLHOUSE

NOTE } Many early maps & references to
this "general schoolhouse locale"
identify it as simply "CAMANO"
rather than "CAMANO CITY"



933 Orchid Rd

Explore this area



W. CHAPMAN ROAD

N ↑

VT

ORCHID ROAD

ROAD

LOT 1
0.68 ACRES

FIRE
STATION

DEDICATED PARKING
FOR LOT 1, SEE
RESTRICTION NOTE
NO. 4.

CONCRETE

SCHOOLHOUSE

LOT 2
0.50 ACRES

$\Delta 9^{\circ}50'06''$
 $L=19.28'$
 $R=112.29'$

$N14^{\circ}32'45''E$
73.65'

$\Delta 2^{\circ}22'18''$
 $L=102.87$
 $R=2485.00$

$\Delta 0^{\circ}41'15''$
 $L=29.82$
 $R=2485.00$

$N09^{\circ}40'30''E$
19.07'

$\Delta 18^{\circ}32'55''$
 $L=106.05'$
 $R=327.59'$

$S89^{\circ}25'28''E$
28.65'

161.06'

$N2^{\circ}44'55''E$

157.13'

220.73'

$S02^{\circ}32'32''E$

271.75'

223.02'

$S87^{\circ}27'28''W$

APPROX
DRYWELL

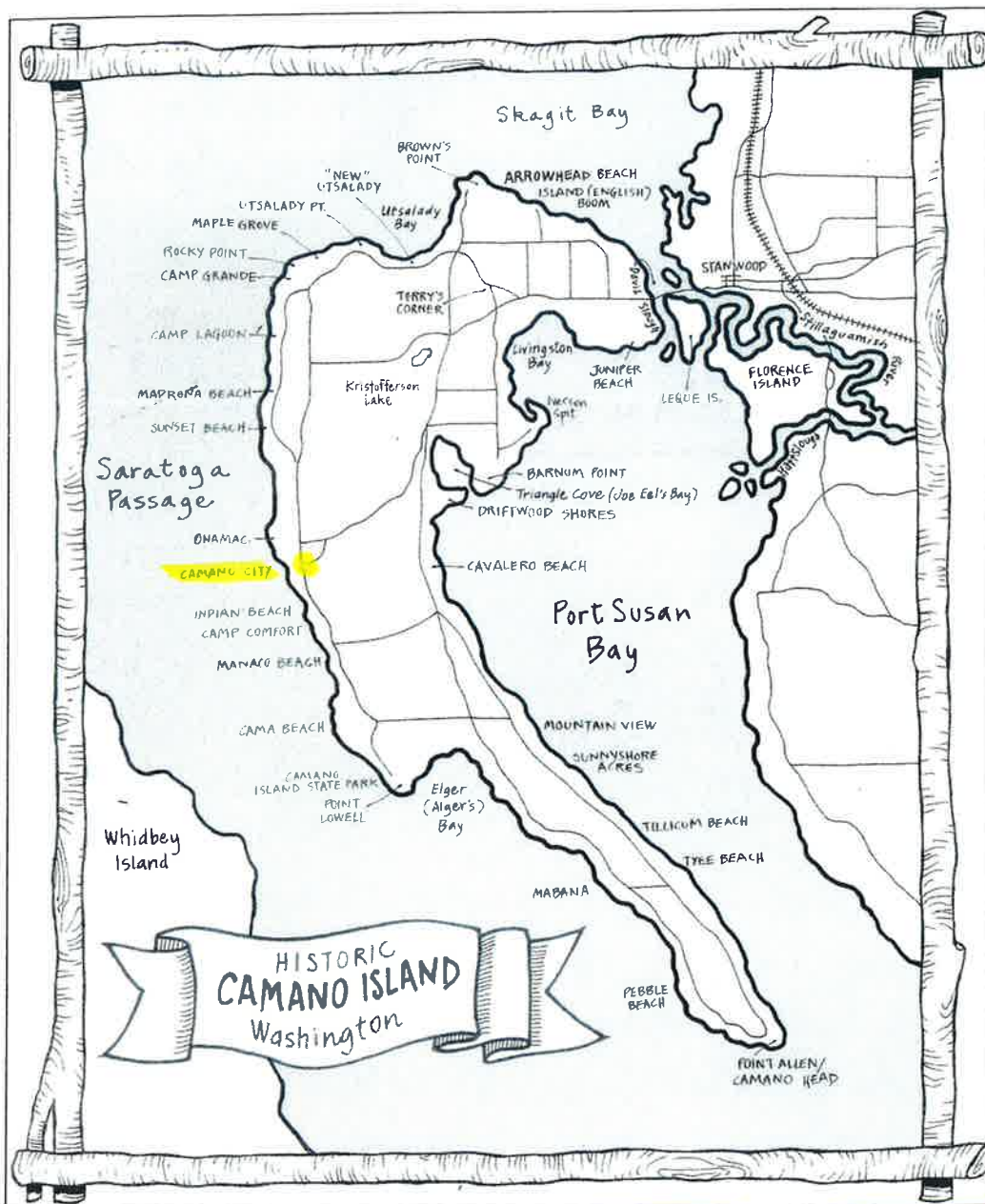
FUTURE
PARKING

35%

40%

30%

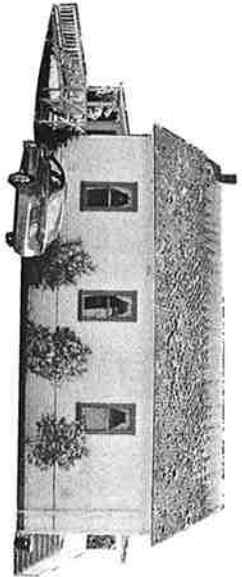
TOE OF SLOPE



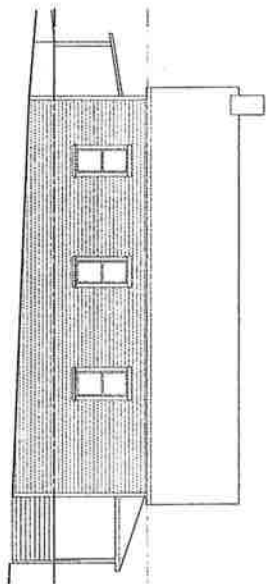
HISTORIC PLACE NAMES OF CAMANO ISLAND. This map shows the places named by white settlers when they arrived, bought, and platted the area. See the bibliography on page 127 for resources on Native American history place names. For the stories of these names, please read on. (Map art by Renee Marquette.)

FRONTISPIECE - "IMAGES OF AMERICA CAMANO ISLAND"

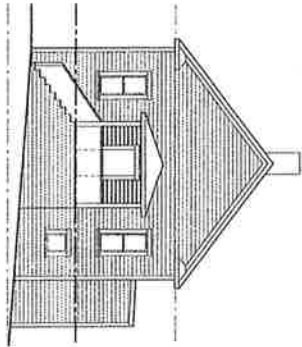
2006 - KAREN PRASSE &
STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



North Elevation



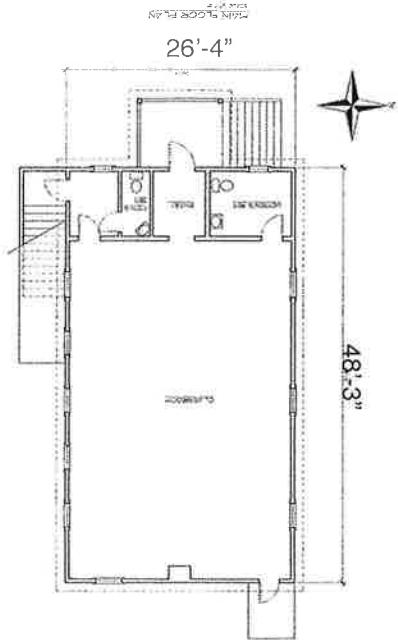
North Elevation



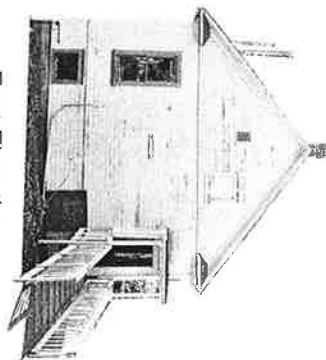
West Elevation



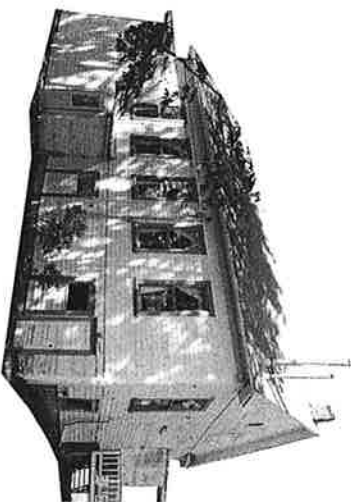
West Elevation



Main Floor Plan



East Elevation



South Elevation

*Drawings courtesy:
Pelletier & Schaar Architects
Stanwood, WA*



*Passport Vernacular Architecture
Conservation Services, LLC
4892 Pinewood Circle
Langley, WA 98260
360.221.8022
goodall@whicpay.com
Prepared by Harrison Goodall*

Preliminary Investigation

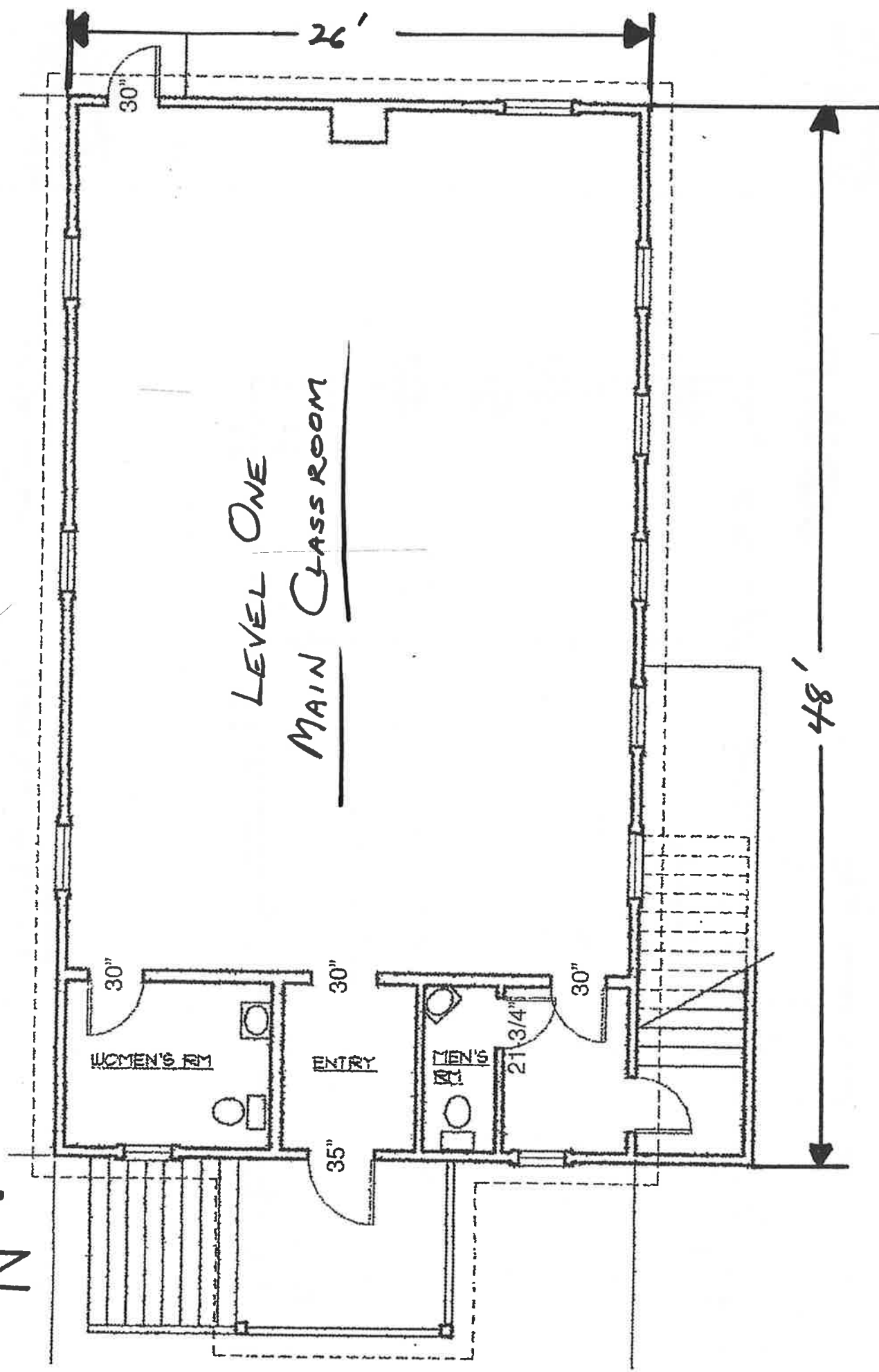
Camano City Schoolhouse

Camano Island, Washington

Visual
Description

February 4, 2014

N ↑



Camano City Schoolhouse
Camano Island, Washington

Drawing courtesy:
Pelletier & Schaar Architects
Stanwood, WA





